



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH News Release

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van T. Mitchell, Secretary

Office of Communications
Christopher Garrett
410-767-6490

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State forms forensic services workgroup to stem mental facilities' census woes *Representatives from different points in the system will seek remedies to delays*

Baltimore, MD (June 15, 2016) – The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has formed a workgroup on forensic services, as the State works to remedy capacity constraints of public mental hospitals to serve Marylanders.

“The formation of a workgroup that will find strategies to fix the difficulties our public hospitals have in treating Marylanders in a timely manner is a top priority for the department,” said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Van T. Mitchell. “This workgroup represents opportunities for us to partner with parties familiar with the dynamics of the system, to hit reset and to find the best way forward quickly.”

The new workgroup will be charged with developing strategies to address the current hospital capacity issue. The workgroup will review the current admissions, treatment, discharge and after-care processes and will identify strategies to enhance the State’s capacity to meet the current demand for psychiatric in-patient care for both civil and forensically involved citizens.

The workgroup includes representatives of the department, including state, local and facility personnel; the judiciary; public safety; healthcare providers and consumers; and advocacy organizations. Behavioral Health Administration Executive Director Dr. Barbara J. Bazron will be chairwoman of the workgroup.

The workgroup will hold four public meetings at the Maryland Department of Transportation Building’s Richard Trainor or Harry R. Hughes conference rooms, at 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Md. 21076. The meetings will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on June 23, June 30, July 7 and July 28, 2016. The Department invites members of the public to attend the meetings. For information about the workgroup, visit <http://goo.gl/Ub5c0d> or contact Rachael Faulkner at 410-402-8402 or rachael.faulkner@maryland.gov.

Marylanders who need help finding substance abuse treatment resources should visit <http://goo.gl/GUoCpT> or call the 24/7 Maryland Crisis Hotline at 1-800-422-0009.